

Boating & Fishing

Senator Michelle A. McManus

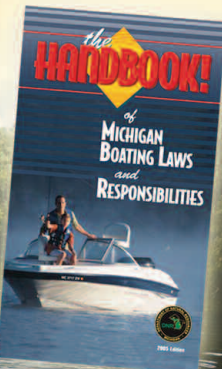
Toll-Free: (866) 305.2135 • Website/E-Mail: www.SenatorMichelleMcManus.com



SAFE BOATING – *the Basics*

- 1. Wear Your Life Jacket.** Always. The U.S. Coast Guard reports that 87 percent of those who drowned while boating were not wearing a life jacket. The number one precaution boaters can take to stay safe on the water is to wear a life preserver.
- 2. Stay Sober.** It is illegal to operate a boat or personal watercraft under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Alcohol is a factor in one third of all recreational boating fatalities.
- 3. Maintain a Safe Speed and Stay Alert.** Most boating accidents are caused by operator errors. Be ready for other boats, swimmers, skiers or shallow waters.
- 4. Take a Boating Safety Course.** Know the rules and always boat with safety in mind.
- 5. Keep your Boat in Safe Working Order.** Make sure your craft meets state and federal requirements and is properly equipped. Request a vessel safety check at: www.vesselsafetycheck.org.
- 6. File a Float Plan.** Let someone on shore know where you're going and when you plan to return.

Check the **Handbook of Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities** to stay on top of Michigan boating rules and regulations. Access it online at www.boat-ed.com/mi/handbook/.



STAY ON TOP OF WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION RULES

All watercraft on Michigan waters, including privately-owned lakes and waterways, must be registered with the Department of State (unless it is exempt) and display a registration decal. Once a registration number has been assigned, it cannot be transferred to another watercraft.



Exemptions include:

- watercraft 16 ft. or less, propelled by oars or paddles, and not used for rental or commercial purposes,
- non-motorized canoes and kayaks not used for rental or commercial purposes, rafts, surfboards, sailboards, and swim floats, regardless of length,
- watercraft registered in another state and used only temporarily in Michigan.

For most watercraft the registration fee is based on length. All registrations expire on March 31 in the third year of issuance.



FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDE AVAILABLE ONLINE

Eating fish has many health benefits. However, there may be health risks from chemical contaminants found in some fish if those fish are eaten too often. *The Michigan Family Fish Consumption Guide* provides advice by water body, fish species, and fish length, as well as tips for cooking and cleaning fish. Access the guide at www.michigan.gov/mdch-toxic - click on Michigan Fish Advisory

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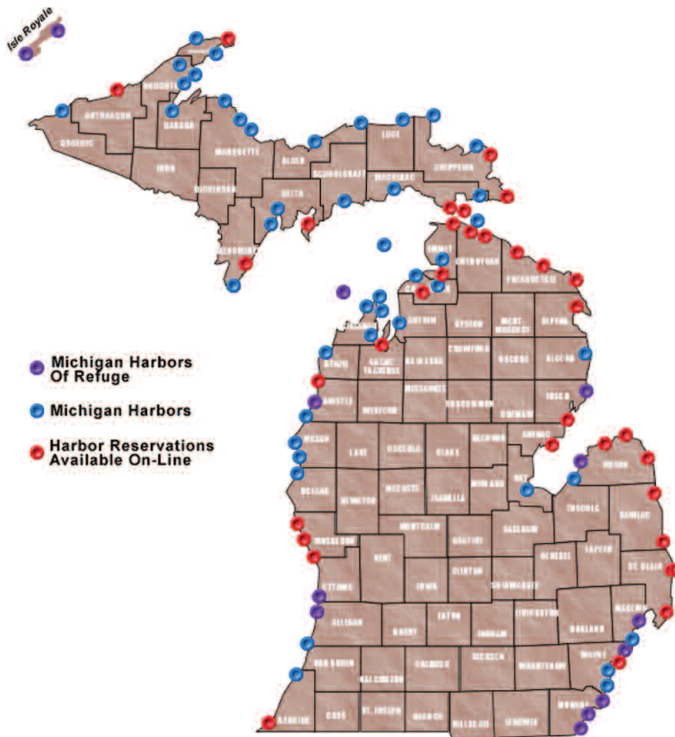
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HARBOR MAP:

<http://www.michigandnr.com/ParksandTrails/harbormap.aspx>



BOATERS CAN HELP KEEP OUR WATERS SAFE

Michigan boaters can lend a hand to homeland security efforts by reporting suspicious activity around their waters, ports and docks. Similar to a neighborhood watch, America's Waterway Watch is sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Boaters should not approach or challenge anyone acting suspiciously. Call the National Response Center at 877-24WATCH with concerns or information. For immediate danger to life or property, call 911.

More information on the program is available on the Coast Guard website at www.americaswaterwaywatch.org.

RESOURCES

BOATING

Handbook of Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities: www.boat-ed.com/mi/handbook/

Harbor Reservations: Call 1-800-447-2757
www.midnrreservations.com/index.cfm

Boating Access Sites:
www.mcgi.state.mi.us/MRBIS/

Boating Safety Classes:
www.dnr.state.mi.us/recnsearch/

NOAA Marine Forecasts and Weather Information:
www.crh.noaa.gov/grr/marine/

U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety:
<http://www.uscgboating.org>

Michigan Boating Industries Association
<http://www.mbia.org/>

FISHING

2006-2008 Michigan Fishing Guide:
www.michigan.gov/dnr

DNR Fisheries Division: 517-373-1280

Weekly Fishing Report: Call 1-517-373-0908
<http://michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10364-34956--,00.html>

Buy a Fishing License online:
www.mdnr-elicense.com/welcome.asp

Michigan Master Angler State Records:
www.michigandnr.com/MASTERANGLER/

Michigan Family Fish Consumption Guide:
www.michigan.gov/mdch-toxic

Report a Poacher (RAP) Hotline:
1-800-292-7800